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IN A

SERMON

Preach'd upon

The First Day of *May*, 1707.

At the Parish-Church of

THISTLEWORTH in *Middlesex*,

Being a DAY of

THANKSGIVING

FOR THE

HAPPY UNION

BETWEEN

England and *Scotland*.

By C. *WILLIAMS*, Lecturer.

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Iſaiah XLIX. 23.

Kings ſhall be thy Nurſing-Fathers, and Queens thy Nurſing-Mothers.

I Think all Interpreters do unanimouſly allow theſe Words in particular, as well as the whole Prophecy in general, to have a double Aſpect; one to the Reſtauration of the *Jewiſh* Government, and another to the Time and Reign of the *Meſſiah*. And this Prophecy, as it had regard to the *Jewiſh* Nation, was made good in a great meaſure, in the Reigns of *Cyrus*, *Darius*, and thoſe other *Perſian* Monarchs, that were very kind to the Captive *Jews*; that gave them Encouragement as well as leave to Re-build their Temple, and were very favourable to them in many other remarkable Inſtances, as is recorded (in part) by the Prophet *Ezra*, and ſet down more largely by the great *Jewiſh* Hiſtorian.

But the exact fulfilling of this Promiſe in the Text, was reſerv'd (no doubt) for the coming of *Chriſt*; and did chiefly aim and point at the Propagation of his Goſpel, and the great Enlargment of the Church, and the ſpreading of Chriſtianity over the univerſal World. And the Chriſtian Aſpect of this Prophety teaches us, that tho' the beginnings of this Religion, and this Church of Chriſt, were very low and inconſiderable in their firſt Riſe; yet that in time it ſhou'd ſo mightily grow and prevail, that huge numbers of People, and mighty Nations ſhould be Converted to the Faith: So that Kings and Queens ſhould ſubmit their Sceptres to the Sceptre of Chriſt's Kingdom, and ſhould become Nurſing-Fathers and Nurſing-Mothers to his Church and People. *Kings ſhall be thy Nurſing-Fathers*, &c.

Under

Under which Words we have two Things very handſomly couch'd.

I. The Character of good Princes, or their Duty fairly intimated; that they are to be *Nurſing-Fathers and Nurſing-Mothers* to Religion, and to their Country.

II. The great Bleſſing of a People that live under the happy Circumſtances, of having ſuch Princes to Rule over them, as deſerve that charming Character, and that make good the Obligation intimated in the Text.

I begin then with the Character of good Princes, or rather their Duty, intimated in theſe Words, *That they ought to be Nurſing-Fathers and Nurſing-Mothers to Religion and to their Country.* Let us take theſe Terms in what Senſe we will, whether for Natural Parents, or for thoſe who ſupply the place of Parents in the taking care of Children, that is to ſay Guardians or Nurſes; yet the Relation in both theſe Notions, does imply a wonderful Truſt which God hath repos'd in Princes, and a wonderful Care, and Solicitude, and Tenderneſs, requir'd of them in behalf of their Subjects: And that there is a Duty from Superiors to Inferiors, and a ſtrict tye upon Princes to protect and cheriſh, and to ſtudy to promote the good of their Subjects; as well as there is an Obligation upon Subjects to honour and obey their Lawful Princes.

And, Oh how happy would it be, if all Chriſtian Princes did ſeriouſly and conſcientiouſly conſider this! That God hath plac'd them on their Thrones for the Peoples Good: To be their Guardians, and not their Oppreſſors; to make them Happy, and not Miſerable; to eaſe their Shoulders from the Burthen, and not to impoſe the Yoke of Slavery upon their Necks: That they ſtand in God's ſtead, who is the generous Lover and great Benefactor of Mankind. And therefore that they are ſtrictly oblig'd by God, whoſe immediate Vicegerents they are, to anſwer their great Obligation; to fill up and make good the glorious Character of Nurſing-Fathers to their Country, and not to tyrannize over their Loving Subjects, by ſet-

ting up their Humours for Laws to the People; by making their own Wills the Standard of Government, and by ſacrificing the Peoples Eaſe and Plenty, to gratifie their own unbounded Avarice and Ambition.

This hath been the hard Caſe of many a poor Nation abroad in the World; and theſe indeed are the ſtrange and unnatural Meaſures which have been lately taken and follow'd by a Neighbouring Prince of ours, for the Advancement of his wild Projections of an univerſal Empire, even to the haraſſing of his Subjects, and almoſt to the very draining his Kingdom of their Riches and Plenty.

But (bleſſed be God) our Lot is fall'n to us in a goodly Heritage. We have indeed a Country that is admirably fitted for Pleaſure, Profit, and every thing almoſt that can be deſirable: And we have now a Princeſs plac'd upon the Throne, that anſwers to all the Gentleneſs, Temper, and Sweetneſs of our Clime, and to all the Care and Tenderneſs of a *Nurſing-Mother* in her unbounded Liberality and indulgent Benignity to her happy Subjects, in her Pious Care and Affectionate Zeal for the National Church and Eſtabliſhed Religion; and (I muſt add too) in her Moderation and Indulgence to the inflexible Stiffneſs of our Sectaries.

This is indeed the happy Caſe of our Nation at this time: God grant that we may long ſit under the benign Influences of this gracious Reign! And that we may not provoke God by our unthankful Bshaviour to remove this moſt invaluable Bleſſing from amongſt us! But I ſhall think fit to diſmiſs this Head of Diſcourſe for the preſent, becauſe it does not look ſo proper to the Occaſion; nor indeed is it ſo ſeaſonable at any time, for us to take upon us to dictate to crown'd Heads their Duty, as it is from them to learn our own, and to praiſe God for the Happineſs we enjoy under them; eſpecially when they are ſuch as rule in Righteouſneſs, and miniſter true Judgment unto the People; as is the happy Caſe of our Land at this time; and I hope we are all ready to acknowledge it with all the Tokens and Expreſſions of the utmoſt

Joy

Joy and Thankfulneſs. In confidence of which, I ſhall now apply my ſelf to theſe two plain, but ſuitable, Conſiderations.

1. To ſhew, that God hath abundantly made good the gracious Promiſe in the Text to us of this Nation, by raiſing up *Kings and Queens* to be *Nurſing-Fathers and Nurſing-Mothers* to this Kingdom, in a very ſignal manner.

2. To ſtir us all up to a ſuitable Thankfulneſs for theſe Bleſſings, and to walk worthy of them, in order to their continuance.

1ſt. Then let us conſider, that God hath abundantly made good his gracious Promiſe in the Text to us of this Nation, by raiſing up *Kings and Queens to be our Nurſing-Fathers and Nurſing-Mothers*. He hath indeed made good this Promiſe to many Kingdoms and Countries up and down the World; whom he hath bleſt and multiply'd exceedingly, as long as they kept up to the Rules of Vertue and Good Manners, making them a Terror to the Nations round about them. We have ſufficient Evidence of this (if we go no further) in the Sacred Story of the *Jewiſh* Nation; to whom, as long as they ſerv'd him, God rais'd up Captains, Leaders and Rulers, that waxed valiant in fight, that turn'd to flight the Armies of the Aliens, and made the People Great and Formidable.

And tho' we of this Nation are not that Righteous People, that deſerve to have God ſo near us; yet the Divine Goodneſs hath abundantly made good this Promiſe to us, upon whom the ends of the World are come; and we have in all Ages, ſince we became a civiliz'd People, often taſted how Good and Gracious the Lord is. The Chriſtian Religion was planted here very early amongſt us; as early as the Apoſtles days; nay, by one of them in all probability, I mean, by St. *Paul*, that great Traveller and Planter of the Chriſtian Faith. And further, if we will believe our own Hiſtories, they acquaint us, that God vouchſafed us the Honour of having the firſt Chriſtian King in *Europe*, and ſo conſequently the firſt Nurſing-Father; for in that Senſe I take the Words to be principally intended.

And moreover, our Country is renown'd for having one that was the firſt and greateſt *Nurſing-Father* and Patron of Religion, *Conſtantine the Great*, born in it ſo early was this Promiſe of God to his Church fulfill'd amongſt us.

And afterwards, when Chriſtianity began to be mix ed with *Error and Superſtition*, and at length to be over ſpread with them in this Nation, it was by a Prince o our own that the Papal Corruptions and Uſurpation were thrown off at firſt, and compleatly diſarm'd an expell'd this Kingdom by that *incomparable Prince* Queen *Elizabeth*, whoſe Memory muſt ſtand for eve Glorious and Precious in our *Engliſh* Annals.

After that, when the glorious Conſtitution of ou Church, and the National Eſtabliſhment was attack from another Quarter, and was almoſt devour'd by diſmal Fire kindled within its own Bowels, which co ſum'd the Stately Cedars of our *Lebanon*, and broug both the Church and State even to a gaſping and e piring Condition: Yet in the midſt of all theſe fa Confuſions and Diſtractions, how wonderfully did G reſtore the Royal Line, and bring back *King Char the Second*, to ſtill the Waves of the troubled Sea, a to quiet and appeaſe the Madneſs of the People?

And ſince that happy Reign, wherein our Corn a Wine and Oil were ſo viſibly increas'd, and our Tab overflow'd with Plenty, we have been variouſly toſs up and down, betwixt the open Aſſaults of profeſs Enemies, and the ſecret Treachery of falſe Friend But God hath been pleas'd, amidſt all theſe Dange to ſave us from being Shipwreck'd; and Providen hath now piloted us ſteadily thro' all theſe Fears a Difficulties, and brought our Eſtabliſhment ſafely an anchor; where we hope it will long reſt in Pea and Plenty, under the gracious Wing of an incomp rable PRINCESS, who is no leſs nearly related our Church by her Renown'd Principles, than ſhe is the Crown by her Noble Blood: She hath conſtan ſhew'd her ſelf a Zealous Lover and Aſſerter of t Faith, in the moſt perillous Times, when a Mem only of this Church; and now that ſhe is become

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glorious Head of it, what can we expect otherwiſe, than that ſhe will be *Semper Eadem*, a conſtant Maintainer and Defender of that Faith, which is ſo truly Ancient and Apoſtolical in its whole Conſtitution; And fall ſhort of none of her Royal Anceſtors, in anſwering all the great Hopes of her People? That ſhe will in time advance both the Eccleſiaſtical and Secular Intereſts of this Kingdom, to a more ſplendid and flouriſhing Condition than ever yet they were in? Of which her Majeſty hath already given us ſo many ſignal Pledges, as a ſtrong Foundation for the moſt ſolid Hopes, from a Goodneſs ſo diffuſive and ſo divine.

I know very well that ſome People are much inclin'd to run backward to former Ages for great Princes, and for famous Men and Women; highly extolling thoſe that have been long ſince dead and gone; eſpecially when they have a mind to diſparage and undervalue thoſe whom the Providence of God hath appointed to be our preſent Governours, and to admire nothing ſo much as the Wiſdom and Excellency of the Government of Forein Countries, wholly over-looking (in the mean time) or undervaluing the Bleſſings and Happineſs of their own; which I will make bold to ſay, is the beſt Conſtitution, both for the Prerogative of the Prince, and the Safety of the People, of any that is this day under Heaven. But if Men would make a more juſt and equal Compariſon, let them look now into the World abroad, and ſee how other Nations are govern'd, and by whom? Let them (I ſay) well conſider the Condition and Circumſtances of other People, and our own under the wiſe Adminiſtration of our Excellent QUEEN, and conſult with themſelves, whether they would be willing to remove into any other Country, for the ſake of a more eaſie and favourable Government? Whether they could mend themſelves by removing into *France* or *Spain*, or into *Italy* or *Germany*? Alas theſe are all of them already either beggar'd by Poverty and Want, or plunder'd by Armies, or elſe undone by the inſupportable weight of Exorbitant Taxes; whilſt we of this happy Kingdom, have ſat every Man under

under his own Vine; and tho' our National Exigencies have been indeed conſiderable, yet we have felt ſo little Smart under them, that they have not made the leaſt abatement or abridgment of the Luxuriancy, either of our Table or Apparel.

And as both our Clime is fertile, and our Conſtitution excellent, our Liberties large, our Rights inviolable, and our Laws wholſom; ſo is the Adminiſtration of them (I cannot again but ſpeak it with Joy) ſeated in a Royal Breaſt; which is a rich Cabinet of thoſe Princely Vertues, which add a much brighter Luſtre to the Crown, than thoſe dazzling Jewels that ſurround it; in which Mercy and Truth, Righteouſneſs and Peace, are ſo happily Confederated and met together; and in whom the conſtant, tender and vigilant Care to promote the Welfare of her Loving Subjects, do juſtly give her the ſtrongeſt Claim to that glorious Title of being *a MOTHER to her Country:* Oh 'twere much to be wiſh'd (and 'tis not yet too late heartily to pray for it) that God would once again make her Majeſty a *MOTHER* in a ſtricter Senſe, by ſending her an *HEIR* to inherit the Crown, together with the ſhining Vertues of the Pious *MOTHER!* This would be the joyfulleſt Tidings that the Nation could ever receive, enough to make our very Hearts to leap for joy: Let us then earneſtly pray for it, and leave the iſſue and return of our Prayers to God; and in the mean while learn to be thankful to Almighty God for the warm and comfortable Sunſhine of this glorious Reign: Which that it may be long, I was almoſt going to ſay, to a Thouſand Years; and ſhould heartily wiſh it, did not the remembrance, that Princes muſt die like other Mortals, force me to recal my forward Thoughts: However that this precious Life, which is worth more than ten thouſand of ours, may be long, and laſt even to ſucceeding Generations, is our common Intereſt unanimouſly to beſeech God, and that her Majeſty may late, very late, be tranſlated to the immortal and inviſible Kingdom.

I ſhall not here pretend to attempt the Sacred Character of our moſt Illuſtrious QUEEN, for fear leſt

leſt my rough and rude Stroaks ſhould caſt Deformity, inſtead of adding Luſtre to ſo bright an Image: Her generous and immortal Actions need no other Trumpet beſide their own Merit, to proclaim their juſt Praiſe; and doubtleſs they will be celebrated by Poſterity, and ſpoke of with the loudeſt Acknowledgments and Acclamations, even by the Children that are yet unborn.

Nor ſhall I take upon me, in the Compaſs of this narrow Diſcourſe, to give you a diſtinct and full view of the great and glorious Things that have been done, ſince God hath been graciouſly pleas'd to place her Majeſty on the Throne of *Great Britain*: For that I muſt be content to refer you to her Illuſtrious *Annals*: But there are ſome ſhort Hints and Inſtances, which I think fit not to omit, both as I am a Subject, and as I am a Clergy-man.

And (1*ſt*.) as a Subject, I think my ſelf in the ſtricteſt Duty bound to join with the Voice of the whole Nation, in Celebrating her Majeſty's juſt Praiſes, and paying my Tribute of Thankfulneſs, for her aſtoniſhing Love and tender Concern for the good of her Subjects; which hath run, and indeed overflow'd in a conſtant Stream of Bleſſings to this People, ever ſince her Majeſty's firſt Acceſs to the Throne. No ſooner was ſhe ſeated in it, but ſhe made it the firſt Inſtance of her Princely Care to look into the National Credit, which at that time was very deeply involv'd: I ſpeak this without any deſign to reflect upon the occaſion of it. However, ſo it was, that her Majeſty ſhew'd an un-exampled Inſtance of putting her own Royal Shoulder to the relief of the publick Burthen, and eaſing the Debt of the Kingdom; expreſs'd by that Noble Donative which her Majeſty generouſly made at her firſt taking the Scepter into her Royal Hand: an Inſtance that is hardly to be parallel'd by any thing done by any of her moſt Renown'd Predeceſſors. Indeed it hath been no ſtrange News to hear of ſome Princes, that have brought, by their reſtleſs Ambition and expenſive Projections, their inſlav'd People into Debt, and laid upon them a Neceſſity of paying Taxes and raiſing Contributions, that were almoſt as cruel an Exaction,

Exaction, as that of the *Egyptian* Task-Maſters upon the poor *Iſraelites*. But tell me among all your numerous Race of Heroes, either Ancient or Modern, of one that has ever laid a ſtronger Claim to the Hearts of the People, than that Sacred Head which now adorns the *Engliſh* Crown? How cheerfully did the good QUEEN, when ſhe perceiv'd how the Caſe ſtood with the Kingdom, ſtraiten her ſelf in the Expences of her Court, that ſhe might have the larger Opportunity of doing good to the National Exigencies, which ſtood then in ſo great need of her *Royal Munificence?* An Action which is truly Heroic, and which, without the mean Artifices of Flattery, will render her Memory Glorious and Immortal, when God ſhall deprive the Nation of this glorious Sunſhine (O unhappy time when this heavy Judgment ſhall overtake us!) and take from us the Breath of our Noſtrils, the Delight of our Eyes; ſhall I ſay, no that's too flat and cold an Expreſſion; but rather the Delight, the Deſire and the Comfort of our Hearts, for ſo I am ſure ſhe is to all honeſt Men and Loyal Subjects.

And when the *State-Affairs* were once compos'd, and put into a good Poſture; her Majeſty's next Thoughts were immediately directed to take care of the *Church*: Which ſhe hath done to her immortal Glory, by giving up the firſt-Fruits and Tenths throughout the whole Kingdom; which amount to ſo conſiderable a Revenue, that no *Prince* ſince the firſt Impoſition, had the Heart (I will not ſay the *Conſcience*) to ſurrender till now. And this her Majeſty hath done at a time, when the Crown-Incom had been not a little exhauſted.

This our gracious Sovereign hath done out of her tender and compaſſionate Regard to the Poverty of the Lower Clergy; that by her Royal Bounty the poor Vicarages and Curacies, which are very numerous in this Nation, might be augmented to ſome tolerable Maintenance: That by this means, thoſe that *Preach* the Goſpel might not altogether Starve by it; for which we have her juſt Praiſes ecchoing from all Quarters and Corners of this Realm, and wafted over to us from the *Iriſh*-Shore.

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It hath been indeed a heavy Complaint, and a ſad Grievance (if I may be allow'd to ſpeak in the behalf of my own Function) that ever ſince the firſt Alienation of the *Tyths*, which no doubt belong to the Prieſthood by the Sacred Claim of *Divine Inſtitution*, that we have all along had the ableſt Clergy, and yet the worſt provided for of any in the Chriſtian World; to the great Diſhonour of God (whoſe Ambaſſadors they are) and the no leſs Scandal of Religion; to the ſetting backward the Salvation of Men, and the great and manifeſt Diſcouragement of Learning; eſpecially the beſt and moſt uſeful part of it, the Study of Divinity: Inſomuch that very few amongſt us have been inclin'd of late Years to educate their Sons in the Inſtitutions of our Order, if they had any other Proſpect of Breeding them up to get their Bread. And, as things have gone with the Sacred Tribe (as ſome have been pleas'd to call us in Contempt) they are very much in the right to make a Proviſion for them ſome other way. For (to ſpeak the truth) as the Caſe now ſtands with our *Order*, unleſs there be a ſure Dependance upon ſome *Noble Patron*, for the next Reverſion of a *Dropping Preſentation*, the giving a Man a *Black Gown and Caſſock*, hath been little better than giving him a *Staff and a Bag* to ſeek his *hard Fortune from door to door*.

I muſt confeſs, that the Inferior Rank, in which I move, would ſtrongly incline me to paſs over theſe Reſentments in the profoundeſt Silence, and modeſtly to leave it to a *higher* and more *skilful* Hand, to repreſent our Condition to a more merciful Conſideration, did not the ſad *Exigencies* of the Lower Brethren of my *Function* make it thus abſolutely neceſſary for *ſome Body* to ſpeak out, when ſo many of us are almoſt ſunk down to the very bottom of Miſery; and have little more left to ſupport them under the heavy Trial, than their invincible Vertues, and their noble *Contempt of the World*.

Now, under this low *Ebb* of the Church, it is none of the ſmalleſt *addition* to her Majeſty's immortal Praiſe, to lend her own *Royal Hand* to lift the Poor

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out of the Mire; and in good earneſt to *retrieve the Glory of the Nation*, by lifting up the drooping Heads of ſo many poor Miniſters of this *great Church*, as are forc'd to eat the Bread of Carefulneſs all their Lives long, and to leave their Children behind them like Runagates to continue in Scarceneſs, and to wander up and down, without hardly any to pity, none to relieve them.

Bleſſed be God, who hath put it into the Heart of our gracious Sovereign, out of her wonted Tenderneſs of thoſe who *miniſter in Holy Things*, to take the Matter into her own *Hand*; and with ſuch a mixture of Wiſdom and Goodneſs together, to contrive a way for the e.ſing of our Shoulder, when by having been ſo long inur'd to the *Burthen*, we had by this time quite given over all hopes of *Redreſs*. Oh that this glorious Inſtance of the *Royal Bounty* might influence the Hearts of our *Lay Impropriators*, *that live upon the Sweat of our Labours*, and that ſit and ſolace themſelves in the *ſweet Hives* of our Induſtry, and that can, without any concern, ſit down and feed upon the *Fatneſs of the Flock*, and leave nothing to the true *Shepherd*, *but the Crumbs that fall from their Table*, and no other ſhare in the *Fleece*, beſides what they are forc'd to glean off from the *Briars* and *Thorns*.

But I muſt not detain you too long in this dark and diſmal Entry, but will lead you now into a more delightful and pleaſant Field. And (God be thanked) we have a moſt pleaſing and charming View, if we look no farther than at Home upon the Greatneſs and Opulency of our Nation; upon the vaſt extent of our Trade, and the rich Productions of our own Soil; but above all, when we look upon the mighty Succeſſes of our Fleets and Armies abroad; what Wonders they have done? How can we chuſe but break out into the *Pſalmiſt's* rapturous *Thanksgiving? O that Men would therefore praiſe the Lord for his Goodneſs, and declare the Works that he hath done for the Children of Men!*

Every Year's Campaign hath brought over freſh Laurels to crown her Majeſty's *invincible Arms*; which have by this time ſounded the *Loudneſs* of her illuſtri-

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ous *Fame* almoſt to the very ends of the Earth, and made the Nations to ſtand amaz'd at the ſtupendous Succeſſes of a *Female Conqueror*, that hath (under God) ſo ſtrangely put a Hook into the Noſe, and a Bridle into the Lips of a Proud *Sennacherib*, that hath ſo long not only Tyranniz'd over his own diſtreſſed Subjects, but threatned all *Europe* with his Chains and Vaſſalage.

That the *Pride* of his *Strength*, and the fierceneſs of his *Fury*, ſhould be thus miraculouſly broken by the Hands of a *Woman*; who can conſider this without Wonder and *Aſtoniſhment?* That the *Grand Monarch* (as his Flatterers are accuſtomed to Style him) that made ſo ſure of carrying the whole World before him, ſhould be ſo ſuddenly caſt down and diſcomfited; that his *irreſiſtible Forces* (as he fondly call'd them) ſhould be ſo ſtrangely, nay ſo incredibly put to flight, by an Army that was both inferior in number, and ſo very unequal as to the advantage of Situation: That his Proud *Generals*, that were ſo certain of Victory, ſhould be led Captive, inſtead of *riding in Triumph*; and their numerous Forces, that look'd ſo formidable in the Field of Battel, ſo ſtrangely defeated, and like the mighty Hoſt of the *Egyptian* Tyrant, overwhelm'd in the midſt of the *Floods*, and chas'd away before our mighty Confederacy, like a Viſion of the Night: And further, that in this *glorious Defeat*, the undaunted Courage and renowned Bravery of our bold *Britains*, ſhould bear away the greateſt and the moſt ſignal *Trophies* of the Day, and bring them Home to their Native Country, to be hung up as a ſtanding *Memorial* of the *Engliſh* Valour, how can all this chuſe but be marvellous in our Eyes?

What ſhall I tell you of the renown'd Glories of our *Engliſh Hero* in the next Attempt? When he forc'd his inſolent Enemies to turn their bold *Challenges* into an inglorious Intrenchment? yet how ſoon did he make them to quit their *Strong Holds*, to turn their Backs, and to flee before him with ſuch a fearful and ſhameful Precipitancy?

And where the *Engliſh* Arms could not reach, the *Engliſh Mony* hath yet obtain'd Victories; by enabling

that

that valiant and vigilant General *Prince Eugene* ſo ſeaſonably and ſo happily to relieve the *Beſieged City*, and now at length ſo effectually to drive the Scourge of *Europe* out of the Territories of *Italy?*

In ſhort, we have had ſo many Signal Victories in this Bleſſed Reign, that the whole Chain of our Succeſſes look like the happy *Omens* and Forerunners of a welcome *Peace*; and that Providence is ſpeedily preparing to place the great *Balance* of *Europe* in the ſteddy Hand of the Serene QUEEN of great *Britain*, and to preſent her with the Victorious Laurel in one Hand, and the Olive-Branch of a well-ſettled and laſting Peace in the other.

But it is now high time for us to recal our Thoughts home again; to reflect with joy upon the great Things that her Majeſty's prudent Councils have ſo lately brought about in this Iſland, and which indeed is the more immediate Subject and Occaſion of this Days Rejoycing. What a mighty Work this is, I mean the Incorporating both Nations into one Kingdom, time will ſhew!

This great Projection, hath been ſet on Foot by ſome of her Majeſty's Royal Anceſtors; but ſtill met with ſuch inſuperable Difficulties, as made the Attempt to prove Abortive, and us long ſince to conclude, from thoſe many fruitleſs Endeavours that had been heretofore us'd towards a happy Conjunction, that ſuch an Union as this was as impracticable, as one betwixt the *Diſtant Poles*, or betwixt the Winds and Waves. But this God hath thought fit to reſerve as the Crown of her Majeſty's matchleſs Glories; and we may expect to reap the bleſſed Fruit of it, if we will all ſtudy to be quiet amongſt our ſelves, and thankful to Heaven for its manifold Bleſſings. And as the incomparable Wiſdom of our glorious QUEEN hath (to our juſt wonder and aſtoniſhment) found out this healing Method to unite our Kingdoms, ſo is it no leſs her tender and affectionate Deſire, that this great and noble Atchievment might be a ſtep toward the uniting our Hearts, and, by this bleſſed means, making us a united People in good earneſt. How much it is our Intereſt

tereſt to come to this Healing Temper, to throw aſide the diſtinction of Parties, and to unite in the common Cauſe of the Kingdom, tho' we cannot happily agree (to our great Misfortune!) in the ſame Judgment as to Modes of Worſhip, I ſuppoſe needs no Demonſtration: This would be indeed the moſt effectual way to bar faſt all our Gates, to ſecure us from being annoy'd by the Enemy; who (unleſs our Sins provoke God to be againſt us) can never hope to do us any conſiderable Miſchief, unleſs we ſuffer them to enter in at thoſe very Breaches which our own unhappy Diviſions have made amongſt us. It were much to be deſir'd indeed, that this Nation could be more firmly united, not only in its Secular, but in its Religious Intereſts: but ſuch a Comprehenſion as this (I'm afraid) is much above the reach of Human Wiſdom to bring about: Thoſe that ſeparate from the Eſtabliſh'd Communion, will hardly come into the Boſom of our Church, but upon ſuch Terms, as would mightily weaken and enervate its wholſom Doctrine and excellent Diſcipline; and the Governours of our glorious Church cannot think it reaſonable to pull down her Walls, if thoſe that unhappily Diſſent from her, will not enter in at her Gates. Yet ſtill as to our Civil Converſation, we may, nay (to ſpeak the truth) we ought to come a great deal nearer to one another; to lay aſide all Bitterneſs and Wrath, all Fierceneſs, Clamour and Evil-ſpeaking againſt one another, and whatever elſe might hinder us from mutual Concord and Agreement. And Oh that we could once be brought thus ſeriouſly to conſider the things that belong to our Peace! that we would lay aſide all our eager Quarrels and Animoſities, that *Ephraim* might no longer envy *Judah*, nor *Judah* vex *Ephraim*: How would this render our renowned Iſland impregnable and inexpugnable? How would this happy Ceſſation of our inteſtine Diviſions in the *Britiſh* Family, rejoyce the tender Heart of our Common Mother, and promote the general Intereſt and Welfare of us all? And that it may the more effectually do ſo, I ſhall proceed now to ſtir you up to a ſuitable Thankfulneſs; which is the

2*d*. Part of my Task; and with which I ſhall briefly diſmiſs you.

And what have we now to do, but to thank God for her Majeſty's moſt Auſpicious Reign, under which we have already enjoy'd ſo many ſignal Bleſſings, as are a very ſtrong Prognoſtick, that God hath rais'd Her up as the great Inſtrument of making us a happy People? Oh, may not our unthankful and unworthy Behaviour to God for theſe ineſtimable Benefits, ſhorten our Enjoyment of them! But let us be ſure to carry our ſelves Obedient, both to God, and to his Anointed Vicegerent: Let us pray heartily for her Majeſty's Long Life and Proſperity; as being fully aſſur'd, that by doing ſo, we only pray more effectually for our ſelves and the common Welfare. Above all, let us be careful to walk worthy of theſe great Mercies; and this will be the ready way to engage Providence to be ſtill on our ſide; to take our part; to be our Defence againſt all our Enemies; to bleſs and proſper all our Undertakings; to inſpire her Sacred Majeſty with Wiſdom and Courage to go on ſtill to do greater Things than theſe: To render her the true Guardian and Defender of her Church and People, the Terror and the Scatterer of thoſe Nations that delight in War, the Darling of her Subjects, and the *juſt Wonder* of the World. That ſhe may live to repair all our Breaches, to heal our Differences, and to make us like a City at Unity in it ſelf: And that after a long and ſettled Tranquility here on Earth, She may change this Earthly Diadem for a Crown of Glory, let us earneſtly pray, and let all the People ſay *Amen*.

FINIS.